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PAGE 18

OSCAR NOMS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, SNUBS ARE IN

JENNIFER ANISTON, RALPH FIENNES AND JAKE GYLLENHAAL ALL GET ACADEMY'S COLD SHOULDER

PAGE 27



OILERS GET TRIPPED UP IN TAMPA

The Tampa Bay Lightning's Alex Killorn takes down Oilers captain Andrew Ference during the second period Thursday night. The Oilers gave up an early lead to end the game with a 3-2 loss to the Lightning. Story, page 37. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

City report doesn't warm up to Uber

Ride share. More plates, fewer restrictions could improve service, city officials say

City officials want councillors to consider more taxi plates and even a city-built app to improve service, but ride-share service Uber isn't part of their solution.

In a report going to councillors next week, city staff suggest more plates, special plates for night-time service or letting regional cab companies work in Edmonton, as ways to improve service.

Uber isn't mentioned, however, which the company said is disappointing, because other cities have changed bylaws to allow them to help.

"The report by the City of Edmonton staff could benefit from the insights of other jurisdictions that have codified ride-sharing," said Xavier Van Chau, a company spokesman.

Coun. Andrew Knack said of

the options administration has presented, lifting the cap on taxi plates is the most attractive to him.

"I don't know why this is the only industry that we so tightly regulate any more," he said.

Coun. Scott McKeen said the city needs to ensure vehicles are inspected, insured and operated by qualified drivers.

He said he hasn't made up his mind, but his focus will be the best service for Edmontonians.

"I don't know what our responsibility is to protect the status quo if the status quo isn't delivering high-quality service," he said.

Balraj Manhas, president of the United Cabbies Association, said adding more plates is a reasonable idea, but he wants to know how the city will address Uber's current operations.

"Adding more plates without stopping Uber would be disastrous for our industry," he said. **RYAN TUMILTY/METRO**

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Low oil prices. Oliver not in favour of higher taxes

Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver says Canadians are already taxed too much and his government is looking at ways to lower taxes rather than raise them.

Despite that position, Oliver says he won't comment on Alberta Premier Jim Prentice musing that he might have to consider a sales tax as the province struggles to deal with low oil prices.

"These are decisions that the provincial government will make. I don't have any comment on that directly," Oliver told reporters in Calgary on Thursday.

Oliver did say if Alberta proceeded with a provincial sales tax, Ottawa would do what it has for other provinces who have harmonized their tax with the GST.

British Columbia, Ontario and most Atlantic provinces were each given one-time payments ranging from \$4.3 billion in Ontario to \$364 million in New Brunswick to hand over control of their sales tax programs to the federal government. The harmonized sales tax was contentious in B.C., however, and was rejected by voters in a referendum. The province now collects the provincial and federal portions separately again.

Oliver was adamant that despite the stress put on the economy by lower oil revenues, there won't be any tax increases from his government.

"We're not in favour of increased taxes. We've said that repeatedly. We think ... it makes life more unaffordable for Canadians."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



By the end of February two public pianos — like the one shown in this file photo — will be available at the University of Alberta campus for students needing a break from the pressure of their studies. METRO FILE

A tune a day helps keep stress at bay

University of Alberta. Student union launches latest initiative to support mental health



LEAH HOLODAY
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Students overcome with the pressures of schoolwork could find relief by tickling the ol' ivories, as the University of Alberta student union plans to set up two pianos on campus.

U of A SU president William Lau said by the end of February, students will be able to kick back at two "street pianos" as part of an effort to address student mental health.

Lau said he hopes the initiative will give students just one more way to unwind and curb stress.

"Hopefully along with these pianos, we'll start to hear some music in these areas and for those students who play music themselves, it will help them connect with their roots and share some of their talents on campus," he said.

According to Lau, mental health has become a top priority for the U of A SU, after a 2013 survey from the National College Health Assessment revealed 89.8 per cent of Alberta university students felt overwhelmed.

"The primary concern for mental health on campus is (focused) around the stress and coping with the stress and more broadly, beyond the stress, it's the isolation and loneliness on campus," Lau said.

Steffanie Vaugeois of Don's Piano Place — the St. Albert store donating the pianos — said the company has worked

Piano Time

The pianos will be installed on the pedway between HUB and the Humanities Building and the on the pedway above the LRT Health Sciences station.

with other municipalities to set up street pianos and was eager to work with the SU.

"We support the arts around the community and especially those performance opportunities for young individuals, encouraging them to sit down and play," she said.

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Edmonton shoppers dismayed as Target set to close in Canada

133 Canadian stores affected. 'There were great deals, great prices,' says shopper Adriana Bandu



LEAH HOLOIDAY
leah.holoiday@metronews.ca

Edmonton shoppers said they were shocked Thursday, after news broke the American-retail giant Target would be closing its doors in Canada.

Less than two years since Target first opened in the country, it announced it would be closing 133 Canadian stores, affecting upwards of 17,600 employees.

Adriana Bandu said she was disappointed to hear the news Thursday as she passed

through Target's Kingsway Mall location.

"I probably did 70 per cent of my Christmas shopping here. There were great deals, great prices," said Bandu, adding she prefers the discount retailer to its competitors, including Walmart.

"I found that it is less congested. I found the quality and the way the products look, they look more expensive and better than Walmart," she said.

Sarah, 28, who asked her last name not be published, said it's sad to hear the stores will be closing, especially considering all the jobs that will be affected.

"It's always sad to see businesses go. There's a loss of jobs and it means people are struggling," said Sarah, who also preferred Target to other retailers.

In a statement released by Target Corp., CEO and Chairman Brian Cornell said it was a "difficult decision" to close the Canadian stores, but necessary for the company's future.

"After a thorough review of our Canadian performance and careful consideration of the implications of all options, we were unable to find a realistic scenario that would get Target Canada to profitability until at least 2021," he said in the statement.

In a statement, the company said it plans on focusing on its U.S. store and that "nearly all Target Canada-based employees (will) receive a minimum of 16 weeks of compensation, including wages and benefits coverage for employees who are not required for the full wind-down period."



Shoppers at Kingsway Mall's Target location said they were surprised to hear the discount retailer would be closing.
LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Three men killed overseas known to police



EPS Deputy Chief Brian Simpson spoke with media Thursday after reports of three Edmonton men killed in Syria. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Edmonton police have confirmed they were aware of three young men who allegedly traveled to Syria to fight with extremists before learning of their death through the media.

EPS Deputy Chief Brian Simpson said police had identified the men as high-risk travellers and had been working with RCMP on the case, but were limited in what they could do because of the information they had at the time.

"The challenge with the policing environment in Can-

ada, is when something happens overseas the policing ability to get information in a timely fashion is dependent on the government in power and the processes in place," he said.

Simpson couldn't confirm the exact time when police learned the men had been killed, but noted EPS became aware of the deaths through the media.

He said police have seen a huge increase in the number of investigations of radicalized residents over the last year; such probes are resource-in-

tensive.

Calgary Imam Syed Soharwardy called the death of the three Edmonton men disturbing and said more needs to be done to prevent more Canadians from being recruited.

"I have been asking the government for a long time to do a national inquiry to find out who is brainwashing them, who is funding the travel, who is facilitating their travel," he said.

Soharwardy said he believes people are being targeted by local recruiters.

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Media reports

Edmonton police generally first learn of cases like this through the community, Simpson said, and then the EPS will kick off an investigation if warranted.

- Media reported Wednesday the young men were cousins and had been radicalized in Edmonton before travelling overseas to fight with extremists.



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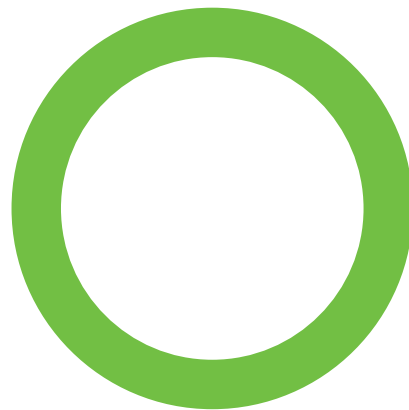
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Local iron workers protested outside the downtown arena construction on Thursday. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Union pushing for home-ice advantage

Labour. Iron workers are upset foreign employees are being flown in for downtown arena project



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Local iron workers are calling the use of temporary foreign workers on the construction of the new downtown arena an offside move.

Union members staged a protest outside the site on Thursday, demanding changes to the temporary foreign worker program that allowed the foreign workers to work on the arena.

Georges Papineau, with the Iron Workers' Union Local 720, said there is no reason the American firm that is doing part of the work needed to bring in staff from Colorado.

Details

Work on the building is continuing with the erection of steel and work on the Wintergarden pedway, which will cross 104 Avenue. The building is expected to be completed in 2016.

"We do have the skill set, we have the manpower, and we were not consulted," he said.

Papineau said there are local workers ready to join the project and this is another example of a bad government program.

"This is the government's issue. This is the fact that the government will not police it or listen to skilled trades people," he said.

Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour, said with Edmonton

taxpayers footing the bill, the workers should be local.

"That's a slap in the face to unemployed iron workers who are just down the street but, frankly, I think it's a slap in the face to Edmonton taxpayers," he said.

Rick Daviss, the city's executive director for the project, said the contractor has told the city there are five foreign workers acting as iron workers and a small handful doing supervisory work.

He said more than 95 per cent of the workers on the project will be local.

"By the time this project is finished, there will be about 3,500 workers going through the site," he said.

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City sees potential for pro ball at Telus Field

Spared for now.
City not looking to demolish stadium



RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Edmonton's Telus Field could attract a professional baseball team, according to a city report, but there are some strikes against the facility.

City councillors asked administration to look into the future of baseball last year after a separate report suggested tearing down the stadium.

In a report going to council next week, the city asked league officials and team owners in a variety of minor leagues who all said Edmonton could host professional ball.

"Overall there was cer-

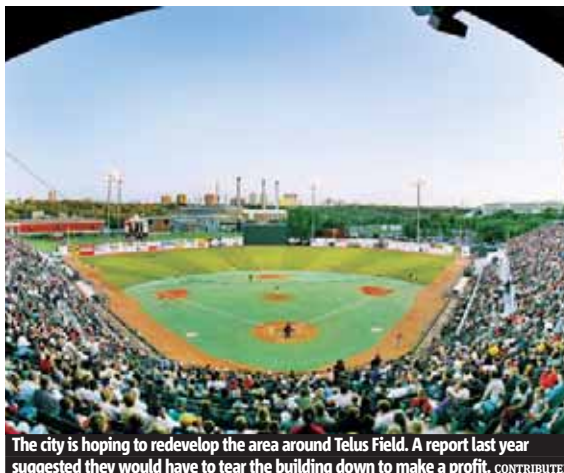
tainly good support to see how professional ball could thrive in our city," said Rob Smyth, the city's branch manager of recreation facilities.

Among the city's strengths was the park itself, the baseball culture and the city's strong economy. Unfortunately, the long distances between Edmonton and other city centres makes travel for competing teams an issue.

Smyth said the city hopes to look at the stadium in greater depth and develop a strategy.

"Our plan is that we can have a solid plan after this season," he said.

The Edmonton Prospects currently play in the facility, attracting about 900 fans a game, but team owner Patrick Cassidy said if they had a long-term commitment they could succeed.



The city is hoping to redevelop the area around Telus Field. A report last year suggested they would have to tear the building down to make a profit. CONTRIBUTED

"We're making progress, but we're kind of having to do it with one hand behind our back," he said.

Coun. Scott McKeen said he believes the facility could

have a bright future.

"I don't think anybody on council has given up on professional sport on the civic stadium down in Rossdale," he said.

Sexual assault. Third-party reporting tool underutilized: Advocates

Edmonton advocates are saying an important reporting tool for victims of sexual assault is being underutilized because of a lack of awareness.

Executive director for the University of Alberta's Sexual Assault Centre Leanne Wruck said third-party reporting — an option for victims of sexual assault where a written statement is given to police, but the complainant remains anonymous — isn't commonly used.

"People don't know about it," said Wruck, noting the centre filed three third-party reports in 2014 and 15 in total since 2007.

The benefits of the report, Wruck said, is that it gives victims a chance to share their story even if they're not ready to go forward with an official police report, while still providing important information to authorities.

"This is an opportunity for them and to talk about what happened to them," she said. "(It) gives police a chance to look for that serial type of behaviour."

What is a third-party report?

A third-party report is an anonymous form that includes a written statement that is submitted to police and kept on file.

According to Staff Sgt. Shawna Grimes of EPS Sexual Assault Unit, information from the reports are collected by service analysts, who record locations and can cross-reference cases that have similarities.

"It does give us information, but of course as police it doesn't give us the total information that we would like, but it's not nothing," said Grimes. "So that's a good thing."

Grimes said she hopes the option would help complainants who may not be ready to go through a more formal complaint process, but are aware police know about the situation.

"It's a baby step, but it's a step none the less," she said.

LEAH HOLODAY/METRO

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Spruce Grove's professional cyclist Ryan Anderson joins Spruce Grove and Tour of Alberta dignitaries upon the announcement of the dates and sites for this fall's Tour of Alberta. Anderson will race again this September, with his hometown serving as one of six host communities in northern Alberta. LUCY HAINES/METRO

Alberta set to ride

Tour of Alberta. Host communities and routes named for third annual professional cycling race

LUCY HAINES
edmonton@metronews.ca

The Tour of Alberta is making a triumphant return to the province this fall, with seven official host communities presenting either a start or finish day of the professional cycling event.

The City and County of Grande Prairie kick off the first two days of the 2015 event, which runs from Sept. 2 to 7. New communities to host further stages are Jasper, Edson and Spruce Grove, with Edmonton, the only returning site, hosting the final stage with an 11-kilometre circuit around Sir Winston Churchill Square.

"The riders like the route in Edmonton, with its challenging hills," said Tour of Alberta

Quoted

"Our goal is for 50 million people to see what Canada and Alberta have to offer."

Tour of Alberta executive director Duane Vienneau

executive director Duane Vienneau. "And last year, the race was won on that last leg."

Vienneau said each community helps plan the routes and festivals that are part of the tour, but he predicts people will be blown away by Jasper's breathtaking scenery and first-ever mountain top finish, as riders climb 600 metres to Mar-

mot Basin.

"Our goal is for 50 million people to see what Canada and Alberta have to offer," he said.

Alberta's Ryan Anderson, who placed fifth overall in last year's race as top Canadian, said he looks forward to racing at home, on a route that features a sprint finish.

"I know the tour plans to move to southern Alberta next year, but I'm glad for the relatively flat finish at home in Spruce Grove," he said. "Overall it's a balanced route, and it's exciting to start with the team time trial and stop in the national park — it should be phenomenal."

Exact routes by stages will be released in the spring.

Impact

- The Tour of Alberta saw 189,000 spectators take in the six-day event in 2014. It was televised to 45.5 million viewers worldwide.
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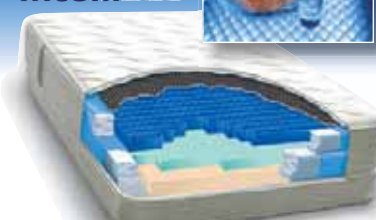
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Mugging. Police seek downtown assault suspect

Edmonton police are hoping the public can help identify a man they believe attacked and robbed a woman downtown.

Officers responded to the attack around 1:15 p.m. on Dec. 10 near 109 Street and 100 Avenue after a 30-year-old woman reported being attacked while she was taking garbage to her apartment's dumpster.

She said she encountered the man crouching inside the dumpster and that after a short



Composite sketch
SUPPLIED

verbal altercation, the man attacked her and stole her mobile phone.

Police believe the man fled west from 109 Street on foot.

The woman sustained non-life threatening injuries.

The suspect is described as an Aboriginal male youth, possibly 15 to 17-years-old, approximately five-foot-six and 150 pounds. He has medium-length dark hair, a thin moustache and was wearing a plaid jacket at the time of the alleged assault. **METRO**

Organized crime

Big RCMP sweep

RCMP searched homes, businesses and vehicles in both Alberta and Saskatchewan as part of a mass crackdown on organized crime Tuesday.

Police charged 14 people and seized firearms and drugs. **METRO**

Alberta

Legislature to resume in March

Alberta's politicians will get back to work on March 10, with a provincial budget following soon after.

House leader Jonathan Denis said the budget would be tabled before the end of March. **METRO**

Health Council clears medevac relocation

City Centre.

No impact on patient health from closure



RYAN
TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

The relocation of medevac services from the city centre airport came at no cost to patients, according to a new report from the Health Quality Council of Alberta.

In a report issued this week the council determined that, despite concerns about the relocation to the Edmonton International Airport, patients have not suffered.

"No adverse patient safety or care issues were identified that could be associated directly with the relocation of medevac service," reads the report.

The study looked at 232

patients who were transferred from rural hospitals to Edmonton through either fixed wing flights or helicopters in emergency situations. Of those cases, eight patients died within 24 hours of the transfer, but the council found speed was not a factor.

Edmonton Coun. Ben Henderson said it's reassuring to see the city's prior statements about the closure backed up.

"We have said this since day one and that in actual fact we could improve the service," he said.

The quality council did make suggestions to improve service, but they are mostly centered around improvements at rural hospitals.

Health Minister Stephen Mandel said the government is currently working on an implementation plan.

"They will be acted upon," he said.

WITH FILES FROM LUCY HAINES



A STARS helicopter takes off from the former city centre airport site, which is now being redeveloped. **METRO FILE**

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EMS Paramedics Randall Brosnikoff (left) and Chris Cowling with a clot-busting drug tenecteplase. The drug is one of a few that can be administered to patients at home or in ambulance to halt a heart attack or help prevent damaged heart muscle before reaching hospital. CONTRIBUTED

Stopping a heart attack in its tracks

U of A. Research leads to vital treatment for emergency cardiac patients before reaching the hospital

University of Alberta researchers have found a system to abort a heart attack before it happens, or prevent heart muscle damage, by using clot-busting drugs either in the patient's home or on the ambulance ride to the hospital.

New research by local cardiologists published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology highlights the benefits of the Vital Heart Response (VHR) system — a way to diagnose and treat patients by co-ordinating care from on-scene paramedics with calls to doctors, and using key drugs, ideally within an hour of onset of the cardiac

episode. "Once a heart attack is recognized, we can treat with life-saving therapies whether a patient is in a rural farm house or a downtown high-rise," said Dr. Kevin Bainey, one of the study's authors and a cardiologist at the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute.

"Our study found that if patient's present within an hour, then one in three cases can leave the hospital without heart damage."

That was true for Debbie Robertson, a 57-year-old mother of three who called EMS after feeling severe upper back and neck pain.

"The paramedics gave me an injection in the ambulance and, within 10 minutes, I felt great. These guys saved my life," said Robertson.

The University Hospital Foundation provided a \$225,000 seed grant for the research, which led to a program now unique in Canada.

Facts

- A study of 2,235 patients, conducted over several years, was led by researchers at the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, The CK Hui Heart Centre and the U of A's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

- Because of the Vital Heart Response system, Northern Alberta has Canada's lowest 30-day mortality rate from heart attacks, at 4.9 per cent. The national average is 7 per cent.

"We accelerate innovation," said Law.

Bailey said that while the program has put the university on the map, he wants to emphasize making an early call to 911 for people experiencing symptoms of heart attack. **METRO**

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Rehtaeh's story not finished, mom says

Parsons case.

Man gets one year of probation for distributing child porn



HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

The court proceedings sur-

rounding the distribution of child porn in the Rehtaeh Parsons case may be over, but her mother says Rehtaeh's story is far from finished as she awaits the results of a review into how her daughter's case was handled by police.

On Thursday, the second man who pleaded guilty in the child-porn case was sentenced in Halifax youth

court to a year of probation for distributing a sexually graphic image showing Rehtaeh, who was 15, leaning out of a window as he smiled at the camera and gave a thumbs-up sign.

"Justice will only be served if this young man takes a different path in his life," Rehtaeh's mother, Leah Parsons, told reporters outside court.

The 17-year-old Parsons died after being taken off life-support following a suicide attempt in April 2013. Her parents say she was bullied for months as a result of the photo.

The 20-year-old was ordered to attend counselling, not contact Parsons' family, not drink or possess alcohol and submit a DNA sample, among other conditions.



Glen Canning, father of Rehtaeh Parsons, leaves provincial court in Halifax on Thursday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dalhousie. Dentistry students avoid charges

Halifax Regional Police have finished a review of misogynistic comments made about female dentistry students at Dalhousie University and conclude no crimes have been committed.

The police department says a team of senior investigators in the Criminal Investigation Division reviewed the material allegedly posted by male classmates of the women on a Facebook page.

The department says it will not proceed with a criminal investigation.

Dalhousie had initially refused a police request to provide the postings based on student privacy concerns but then indicated it would co-operate.

Reports of the offensive posts and the university's initial response prompted rallies and calls for the expulsion of the 13 students.

The Facebook page at the

Career consequences

The fourth-year students who were part of the Facebook group have been ordered to attend classes remotely and are suspended from clinical duties, which could affect their ability to graduate.

centre of the controversy has been taken down.

According to the CBC, members of the Class of DDS Gentlemen page on Facebook voted on which woman they'd like to have "hate" sex with and joked about using chloroform on women.

The CBC said that, in another post, a photo of a woman in a bikini carries the caption, "Bang until stress is relieved or unconscious."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online comments

"Bang until stress is relieved or (woman is) unconscious."

Caption on a photo of a woman in a bikini, posted on the Class of DDS Gentlemen page on Facebook, since taken down.

Egypt

No reprieve for jailed journalist

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said he "didn't leave Canada with any expectation that we could solve the issue today" regarding the case of imprisoned Egyptian-Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy.

Baird made the comments during a visit to Cairo on Thursday, after meeting with his Egyptian counterpart to discuss, among other things, the situation of the 40-year-old journalist who has spent

more than a year behind bars in Cairo after he and two colleagues were arrested while working for satellite news broadcaster Al Jazeera English.

The statements came as a disappointment to Fahmy and his family, who had expressed hope that Baird's visit would mark the "finale" to what has been a nightmarish experience for the journalist.

"I do believe that Prime Minister (Stephen) Harper could do more to obtain my release if he were to directly intervene in our case," Fahmy said in a statement released by his lawyers. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Target Corp. prepares to close 133 money-losing Canadian locations

Full retreat. Target expects \$5.4 billion US in losses over its last quarter, mostly from its underperforming Canadian stores

Less than two years after Target Corp. threw open the doors of its first Canadian stores with grand expectations, the discount retailer is retreating back to the United States in defeat.

The Minneapolis-based company said Thursday it has decided to wind up its money-losing operations in Canada, a move that affects 133 stores and 17,600 employees across most of the country.

"After a thorough review of our Canadian performance and careful consideration of the implications of all options, we were unable to find a realistic scenario that would get Target



Workers install an outdoor sign at a new Target store at the Mic Mac Mall in Dartmouth, N.S. on July 20, 2013. Target says it will discontinue operating its 133 Canadian stores. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada to profitability until at least 2021," said Target chairman and chief executive Brian Cornell in the announcement.

Before its launch, Target was once considered the biggest threat to Canadian businesses,

partly because its reputation with consumers was unique. Many Canadians would trek south of the border to wander the aisles of U.S. Target stores searching for deals and products they couldn't find at home.

But when Target arrived in Canada the story wasn't the same, as complaints flooded social media about empty shelves, high prices and a selection that fell short of expectations.

Target Corp. will record

Retailers off-target

Target is far from the first retailer that has had trouble breaking into other markets. Here are some others:

- **Walmart.** The world's largest retailer, which now operates in 27 countries, rarely acknowledges defeat. But in 2006, the Bentonville, Ark.-based discounter threw in the towel in Germany.
- **Best Buy.** In January 2013, the consumer-electronics chain said it would close 15 of its stores in Canada and

cut about 5 per cent of its workforce in the country as it tried to revamp its strategy. In November 2011, it said it was closing all 11 of its U.K. big-box stores.

- **Sony.** Sony Corp. also announced it would be closing its 14 retail stores in Canada; they will shut down over the next six to eight weeks. The company said its products will still be available online.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS &
THE CANADIAN PRESS

about \$5.4 billion US in pre-tax losses in its fourth-quarter, with most of it related to the Canadian operation.

The company said it would provide \$175 million US of credit to fund Target Canada's operations while it winds down

under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, or CCAA, a Canadian equivalent to the U.S. Bankruptcy Act.

RBC analyst Irene Nattel said it is unclear who would be in a position to take over Target's 133 stores. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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A mother, teacher, writer and Edmonton's first lady, Sarah Chan is also a Big Sister and believes in the power of mentoring to create strong and healthy kids. Together with other leaders in our community, Sarah is spreading the word that mentoring is easy, fun, and the only special skill you need is to care about kids.

"Littles" come from all ethnicities, backgrounds and personal circumstances. In Edmonton and area, young people are waiting for a volunteer to step forward and be their friend. If you have a couple of hours a week and care about kids, please join Sarah and others to make a difference in the life of a child.

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Shoppers browse at a Target store in Toronto on Thursday. Target says it will close its stores in Canada — a market that it entered only two years ago.
COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Closures send a 'very strong message'

Target. Despite high expectations, discount retailer's foray into the Canadian market is a cautionary tale for U.S. companies

U.S. retailers planning to cross the border can learn some valuable lessons from the failure of Target, which announced Thursday it is shutting down its 133 Canadian stores just two years after its launch.

"It's a huge thing, after two years, for a brand like Target to wave the white flag," said Doug Stephens, the founder of Toronto-based consulting firm Retail Prophet. "I think that really sends a very strong message to others that maybe the Canadian market isn't the easy pickings that they thought it might be."

Canadians, who had high hopes for the discount retailer known for its broad product selection and low prices, were underwhelmed when they discovered bare shelves and less-than-impressive pricing.

It all speaks to the importance of understanding the Canadian market and making a good first impression, Stephens said.

"You've got to deliver on customer expectations or exceed them."

Target's missteps, including supply chain issues that left shelves nearly empty during the all-important launch, could serve as a cautionary tale for other U.S. retailers, experts say.

Retail analyst Mark Satov said the biggest lesson for U.S.

retailers is to test the Canadian market by entering at a gradual pace, rather than opening a large number of stores at once.

"You dip your toe into a new market and you learn, while controlling the potential loss," Satov said.

When Target first entered Canada, they opened more than 120 stores in the first year — a "Herculean feat" for any retailer, said Stephens.

Due to factors including higher taxes, steeper labour costs and greater consolidation in Canada, it was impossible for the retailer to offer the same low prices as it does to U.S. consumers, said Satov.

Daniel Baer, a Canadian retail industry expert at Ernst & Young, said the country's population is spread over a larger geographic area than the U.S., which raises distribution costs and should be considered when deciding where to place distribution centres.

While U.S. chains may pause to consider Target's failure, the company's exodus is good news for other Canadian retailers, with Walmart Canada and Canadian Tire set to benefit the most, according to RBC analyst Irene Nattel.

However, Baer says there is still room in the Canadian retail market for new U.S. entrants that have a compelling offer.

"I think we'll continue to see U.S. retailers come into the market," he said. "There are some that have entered the market quite successfully. I think what we'll see is that they'll enter the market using a more paced, or more measured, approach."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retail expansion

Knowing your market

Target's attempt to break into the Canadian retail marketplace may not deter other U.S.-based companies from trying to do the same, but that doesn't mean they won't take lessons away from Target Corp. and its two-year Canadian project.

Seattle-based Nordstrom

recently launched a location in Calgary and is set to open new stores in Vancouver and Ottawa later this year.

The company will also open three stores in Toronto in 2016 and 2017.

Saks Fifth Avenue, which was acquired by Hudson's Bay Co. in 2013, is slated to open its first two Canadian stores in Toronto in 2016.

Although the luxury retailers are catering to a different

demographic than Target. Doug Stephens, founder of the Toronto-based consulting firm Retail Prophet, said they would do well to heed some of Target's hard-earned lessons.

"Anyone who lives in Canada and has shopped in a Saks Fifth Avenue store or in a Nordstrom store has an expectation that service is going to be absolutely outstanding, that the products are going to

be merchandised beautifully and that the quality of everything is going to be wonderful," said Stephens.

"The Bay has a lot at stake here ... They can't afford to let the Saks Fifth Avenue customer down. If they do they'll lose them forever. And Holt Renfrew will simply sit there with its arms folded and say, 'See we told you. You never should have left us in the first place.'" THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Flag turns 50. Feds cough up \$50k to mark Feb. 15

The federal government has allotted \$50,000 for celebrations for the upcoming 50th birthday of the iconic Maple Leaf flag.

That's compared to almost \$4 million for a campaign marking the 200th anniversary of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth, and \$5.2 million spent on the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Canadian Heritage said Thursday that the \$50,000 includes funds for promotional material, a photo exhibit during Ottawa's upcoming Winterlude festivities and various "outreach products."

In an email, a spokesman

also said the department has provided more than \$200,000 to organizations, including provincial lieutenant-governors, for their 50th birthday projects.

By way of contrast, the government announced earlier this week it will spend \$1.5 million on a cross-country project to raise awareness about the Holodomor, a state-sponsored famine in Ukraine in 1932-33 in which millions starved while resisting Soviet collectivist policies. The flag — the brainchild of Liberal prime minister Lester B. Pearson — turns 50 on Feb. 15. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



The federal government is spending \$50,000 to celebrate the red and white Maple Leaf. **ISTOCK**

Fevers going up, immunity going down: American study

Flu vaccine. This year's formula isn't that effective, according to a new report

A new report from American scientists suggests this year's flu vaccine is offering modest levels of protection against the influenza viruses that are in circulation.

And while Canadian estimates are still being worked on, there is reason to suspect the vaccine effectiveness in this country may be lower still than what is being seen south of the border.

The report, published Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, suggests that on average, the vaccine lowers a person's risk of getting sick enough to need medical care by 23 per cent.

That low level of protection is attributed to the fact that the H3N2 viruses that are causing most of the flu this



A nurse working for Vancouver Island Vaccine loads a syringe with flu vaccine for injection at the Victoria Clipper Terminal in Victoria. **CHUCK STODDY/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

year in North America aren't a good match for the one in this year's vaccine.

The CDC report says about two-thirds of the H3N2 viruses seen in the U.S. so far this winter are not the type included in the vaccine because the viruses have mutated or drifted.

A leading Canadian flu

researcher says in Canada, nearly all the H3N2 viruses that are being seen are drifted viruses, so the vaccine may not be working as well here.

Dr. Danuta Skowronski of the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control says the U.S. study shows modest protection in children aged six

months to 17 years. But in 18- to 49-year-olds, and people aged 50 or older, the protection is 12 and 14 per cent, respectively — and the numbers aren't statistically significant. That means the protection offered in these groups could be higher but could be lower as well. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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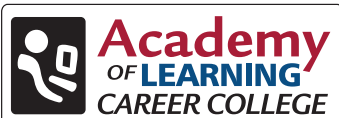
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U.S. President Barack Obama signs a presidential memorandum Thursday on paid leave. CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama pushes for paid leave programs

Addressing issue at state of the union.
U.S. president is renewing his push for paid leave for parents and other workers

The White House said this week that Obama will make a new push on the issue, beginning with the state of the union address he delivers Tuesday night.

Obama will call on Congress, states and cities to pass measures to allow tens of millions of workers to earn up to a week of paid sick time a year. He'll ask Congress for more than \$2 billion to encourage states to create paid family and medical leave programs.

In addition, Obama aims to provide federal employees with up to six weeks of paid sick leave to care for a new child. And he'll propose Congress pass legislation to give federal workers an additional six weeks of paid parental leave.

Obama said the Baltimore café owner has offered above-minimum-wage pay and earned

Paid leave at forefront

"We really can do something about it."

U.S. President Barack Obama, noting that the issue of paid leave transcends demographics and geography.

sick leave to all employees since opening in late 2010. He said that "pays dividends," citing reduced turnover as one benefit.

Obama wants Congress to pass legislation to allow workers to earn up to a week of paid sick leave to care for themselves or a sick family member, obtain preventive care or deal with domestic violence. Workers would earn an hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours they work.

Obama will call on states and cities to adopt similar legislation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah. Same-sex supporter faces Mormon expulsion

A Mormon man well-known for running a website that provides a forum for church members questioning their faith said Thursday that he is set to be kicked out of the religion later this month.

John Dehlin of Logan, Utah, said a regional church letter informed him that a disciplinary hearing is scheduled for Jan. 25, at which he's likely to be censured or excommunicated.

The letter cites the website, Mormonstories.org, and

his public support of same-sex marriage as reasons for accusing him of apostasy, Dehlin said. The church defines apostasy as "repeatedly acting in clear, open, and deliberate public opposition to the church or its faithful leaders, or persisting, after receiving counsel, in teaching false doctrine."

Excommunication is rare and brings down the harshest punishment available on a church member.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio

Man planned to 'wage jihad': FBI

An Ohio man's Twitter posts sympathizing with Islamic terrorists led to an FBI operation and the man's arrest on charges that he plotted to blow up the U.S. Capitol and kill government officials. Christopher Lee Cornell, also known as Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah, told an FBI informant they should "wage jihad," and showed his plans for bombing the Capitol and shooting people.

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19,000 French sites hit by cyberattacks

Charlie Hebdo fallout.

France is on edge since last week's terror attacks; French president seeks to calm religious tensions

Hackers have targeted about 19,000 French websites since a rampage by Islamic extremists left 20 dead last week, a top French cyberdefence official said Thursday as the president tried to calm the nation's inflamed religious tensions.

France is on edge since last week's attacks, which began Jan. 7 at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The paper, repeatedly threatened for its caricatures of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad, buried several of its slain staff members Thursday even as it reprinted another weekly issue with Muhammad on its cover.

Calling it an unprecedented surge, Admiral Arnaud Coustilliere, head of cyberdefence for the French military, said about 19,000 French websites had faced cyberattacks in recent days, some carried out by well-known Islamic hacker groups.

The attacks, mostly relatively minor denial-of-service attacks, hit sites as varied as military regiments to pizza shops but none ap-



Pallbearers carry the casket of Charlie Hebdo cartoonist Bernard Verlhac, known as Tignous, decorated by colleagues. MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

peared to have caused serious damage, he said.

Military authorities launched round-the-clock surveillance to protect the government sites still coming under attack.

"What's new, what's

important, is that this is 19,000 sites — that's never been seen before," Coustilliere said.

"This is the first time that a country has been faced with such a large wave."

Among the groups sus-

pected of launching the attacks, French officials named MECA: Middle East Cyber Army, Fallaga team and Cyber Caliphate.

According to Arbor Networks, a private company that monitors Internet threats, in a 24-hour period alone, France was the target of 1,070 denial of service attacks.

That's about a quarter as many as the United States, but the U.S. hosts 30 times as many websites.

Coustilliere called the attacks a response to the massive demonstrations against terrorism that drew 3.7 million people into the streets Sunday across France.

He pointed to groups that used tactics like posting jihadist symbols on companies' websites.

President Francois Hollande insisted Thursday that any anti-Muslim or anti-Semitic acts must be "severely punished."

He said France's Muslims should be respected, "just as they themselves should respect the nation." "In the face of terrorism, we are all united," he said at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris.

The government announced Thursday it would give citizenship to a Malian immigrant who saved several Jewish shoppers last week by hiding them in the kosher market's basement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security. Two suspects dead in shootout in Belgian anti-terror raid

Belgian security forces killed two terror suspects with links to Syria in a fierce shootout in the eastern city of Verviers on Thursday and arrested another, foiling a major and imminent attack against police buildings, authorities said.

The raid came amid an international hunt for possible accomplices to attackers who killed 17 people in France last week before being shot dead by police. Those attacks, by men claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group in Syria and al-Qaida in Yemen, have raised fears around Europe of more attacks.

Belgian federal magistrate Eric Van der Sypt said in Brus-

sels that there was no link at this stage between the Paris attacks and the Belgian operation, which he said is the result of an investigation that has been underway for a few weeks.

The suspects immediately opened fire on police when they closed in on them near the city's train station, he said. There was an intense firefight for several minutes on an upper level of a building in Verviers where the raid took place, which appears to be residential. Police buildings were the target of an attack expected within hours or days. "We still expect a number of arrests," said Van der Sypt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AirAsia

Bad weather hinders search for bodies

Bad weather and poor underwater visibility on Thursday prevented Indonesian navy divers from searching inside the large chunk of AirAsia jet wreckage that is believed to be the fuselage.

At least 15 divers descended to the seabed at a depth of 28 metres to examine the piece of wreckage, calculate its weight, and search for bodies. They were unable to do so because of the weather and sea conditions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investigation

Returning to the scene of a deadly prison bus crash

Investigators trying to determine the cause of a West Texas prison bus crash, which killed eight inmates and two guards, returned to the site Thursday to sift through the debris.

The state Department of Criminal Justice bus skidded on an icy overpass, slid down an embankment and collided with a passing Union Pacific freight train Wednesday morning, leaving the bus a crumpled mass. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bombardier shares in tailspin after business jet put on hold

Learjet 85. Slow sales, not technical issues, behind decision to pause development of jet, company chief says

Bombardier's shares plunged more than 25 per cent in heavy trading Thursday following a revised outlook for its aerospace business, including plans to put development of the Learjet 85 business jet on hold, eliminating 1,000 jobs in the United States and Mexico.

On the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Montreal-based company's shares dropped \$1.07, or 25.85 per cent, to a more-than-two-year low of \$3.07 on a very heavy volume of some 65 million shares.

The aerospace and rail equipment manufacturer said before markets opened that it would "pause" development of the Learjet 85, but continue to sell other models



Bombardier said it plans to put development of the Learjet 85, pictured above, on hold due to weak customer interest. CONTRIBUTED

and focus on two other aircraft programs — the Global 7000/8000 business jet and the much-delayed CSeries passenger jet for commercial airlines.

About 600 employees who worked on the Learjet 85 will be switched to the Global and

CSeries projects, the company said.

President and CEO Pierre Beaudoin confirmed slow sales and weak immediate prospects for improvement in the smaller business jet market were behind the Learjet 85 decision, not because

Quoted

"It's a market that has not come back since 2008 and we think that the right decision ... is to take a pause."

Pierre Beaudoin, Bombardier's president and CEO

of any further technical problems with the aircraft, whose first flight was delayed until last April.

Beaudoin denied that Thursday's announcement signals that Bombardier is in peril. "We have a product line where we are the global leaders in business aircraft, regional aircraft and in our train business," he said.

The Learjet announcement follows last year's elimination of 2,900 positions around the world. It laid off more than 200 workers last June because of delays in the Learjet 85 flight test program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caesars. Unit of casino giant files for Chapter 11

A cash-strapped division of casino giant Caesars Entertainment Corp. said early Thursday that it filed for bankruptcy protection in Chicago, hoping the court agrees to its plan to get out from under \$18.4 billion US of debt.

The division Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. owns and operates most of Caesars' 50 properties worldwide. Caesars CEO Gary Loveman said in a statement that its casino-hotels would

remain open and continue to host meetings and events, assuring customers that their loyalty points would still accrue and the company's lineup of on-stage entertainers would keep performing according to their schedules.

More than 30,000 people are employed at Caesars Entertainment Operating Co.'s 38 casino-hotels, including Bally's and Caesars in Atlantic City and the iconic Caesars Palace on the Las Vegas Strip.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A man takes photos of Caesars Palace hotel and casino in Las Vegas Monday. The cash-strapped division of casino giant Caesars Entertainment Corp. said Thursday it filed for bankruptcy protection. JOHN LOCHER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

BlackBerry. Shares give back gains

BlackBerry shares have given back a little over half of the spectacular gains that they made late Wednesday after a news report said the Canadian smartphone company had been approached by South Korean rival Samsung with a takeover offer.

Both companies have since issued denials.

BlackBerry responded late Wednesday that it has not engaged in discussions with Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. about a possible takeover and Samsung sent an email saying the report was "groundless."

Reuters said Samsung had met with BlackBerry executives over the possibility of buying the Canadian company for \$7.5 billion US. The news agency cited both a source familiar with the proposal and related documents.



BlackBerry shares have given back most of the spectacular gains that they made late Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The two companies are rivals in the smartphone business but have worked together on technology.

BlackBerry and Samsung announced a partnership last November where the Waterloo, Ont.-based company made its mobile security technology available for the Android operating system that is used in many of Samsung's

smartphones.

For BlackBerry, the arrangement gave their software the ability to work on Samsung's Galaxy and Note smartphones, while it provided Samsung an opportunity to get the attention of business customers that BlackBerry courts.

Samsung has been focused on selling its Knox security software to the business community in an effort to compete against similar offerings being developed by Apple Inc. and others.

"What Samsung needs is credibility in the business space, which is what BlackBerry is pivoting towards at this point," said Carmi Levy, analyst and writer at Voices.com, a London, Ont.-based web technology company.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute



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VOICES

PUTTING A CAULKING GUN IN YOUR BUTT IS NOT BEAUTIFUL


**THE KOHLER
REPORT**
By Rebecca Kohler

How far would you go to get an ass like Kim Kardashian's? Would you do 700 squats a week to build your glutes? Or eat a bucket of KFC per day in hopes of plumping up? Maybe both at once?

Would you meet a woman, claiming to be a nurse who trained in South America, in a hotel room and pay her thousands of dollars to inject "something" into your buttock using a caulking gun? If it's the last one, you wouldn't be alone.

It was reported this week that Toronto-area woman Marilyn Ely Reid pleaded guilty to eight counts of aggravated assault after injecting at least nine women's bum-bums with poly-methyl-methacrylate (PMMA), a hard plastic used as a shatter-resistant alternative to regular glass, among other things. The "procedure," which is not approved by Health Canada, led to severe complications in most of the women and,

according to doctors, could have been fatal.

Marilyn Reid is clearly an opportunistic monster who should certainly go to jail. But this story saddened me past the fact that some people are terrible.

I have insecurities: face, stomach, overall entire body, the usual. I won't lie, I've Googled certain plastic surgery procedures out of curiosity. There was one involving the under-eye area I was even tempted to pursue, but then I read that there was a two-week healing period.

I realized I'd either have to hide in a cave for two weeks or go out in public and admit that I'd had plastic surgery. I very quickly decided my eyes weren't that bad and went to Shoppers and bought an overpriced cream that I made myself believe would work instead.

I get wanting to "improve" yourself. And I don't want to judge the women who trusted Marilyn Reid and say they should have known that aside from prostitutes and drug dealers, anyone who wants to conduct business in a ho-

tel room is shady at best. But why would these women risk their lives for a passing fad? How long will big butts even be the bomb?

Nicki Minaj and Meghan Trainor are in today, but whose butt will we look to tomorrow? The media is like a weather forecast for your self-esteem. If you have a booty today, great, you're all set. But next time the Twiggy-tuckus is in and you get liposuction, should you save the fat? Keep it in a Ziploc and freeze it so when round rears come back, you can have your butt reinstated?

A quick Google of PMMA brings up some scary stuff. Once it's in your body, it's difficult to remove. Infections are common and pieces of the stuff can get loose in your blood stream and cause all sorts of havoc.

One of Reid's victims was left permanently disfigured, others developed abscesses, infections and one woman was in the hospital for three weeks and couldn't work for an entire year. All this to look better twerking?

I found this post in an Ask an Expert forum: "I had PMMA injections done on my butt in November and I wanted to know when does it stop growing and are there any long term side effects?"

Imagine having a substance in your body that won't stop "growing." And imagine having to resort to the Internet for medical advice because when you tried to ask the person who administered your injections you realized it was just a circus monkey in a white coat.

From Marilyn Monroe to Kate Moss to Kim Kardashian, society itself is on a yo-yo diet and everyone knows yo-yo dieting is bad for you. I'm not saying we can't admire Kardashian's butt, it's an amazing butt, but, do you really want to die for it?

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Target says goodbye

FAREWELL,
DEAR TARGET
**EVIE
SABEAN**
readers@metronews.ca

When you receive texts from multiple people conveying their condolences to you on the closure of Target, you start to realize you may have a problem.

Thankfully I was already wearing black and didn't have to rush home and put on my mourning clothes.

I have been to Target in the United States, and yes, it is far superior. However, Target Canada was still better than my other options. And the clearance? Amazing! When I got \$75 video games for \$10 and gave them out at kids' birthday parties I felt like Oprah handing out cars. Our family moved into a new home this past year, and the whole place is basically a Target store ad. On closing day when we picked up our keys, we stopped at Target before we went home to pick up the flatbed trolley of furniture I had on hold.

We didn't have a dining room table or a bed, but we had a blue velvet bench with tufted buttons. (On clearance, thank you very much.)

Oh, Target. The place where I have browsed, tried on, and spent too much (way too much) money. It's where I learned that 70 per cent off really did exist and people in red shirts and khakis were the grownup version of Disney characters. It's where I went at least a couple times a week to hide from my husband and two young kids and get lost in the never-ending supply of chevron fashion scarves.

I may hold a memorial service for Target.

I'll serve tea sandwiches on a stylish metal tray from the kitchen department, guests can sit on one of the slipper chairs I purchased from the furniture department, and we'll wipe our tears away with tissues from home essentials.

So long, Target. Although my husband and my Visa bill won't miss you, I definitely will.

Evie Sabean lives in Bedford, N.S. and will soon have more time on her hands and money in her pocket.


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ONE-STOP SHOP.

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IF I'M IN THE
AREA.

9%
NO - THERE
ISN'T ONE
CLOSE TO ME.

TARGET DIDN'T
LIVE UP TO
EXPECTATIONS
**BERNICE
PONTANILLA**
readers@metronews.ca

Confession time: As one of those rare Manitobans who didn't shop across the border, Target always seemed an enigma to me, like a far-off Shangri-La.

Those people I knew who did make the trip to Grand Forks would return with stories of cheap clothes, foods, and brand names that weren't available in Canada.

When Target announced it was moving into Winnipeg, I didn't know what to expect, but there were

The rich man's Zellers

Target seemed to look the same as when its predecessor Zellers had its liquidation sale, albeit more clean.

thousands of my fellow 'Peggys who did.

And it seems Target simply didn't live up to expectations. It sure didn't for me about three weeks before this past Halloween, when the flyer brandishing cheap candy brought me to the Kildonan Place store on the same Friday the sale prices kicked in. But there was nothing when I got there in the afternoon — on the same day the sale started. Bare shelves were a common problem; Target seemed to look the same as when its predecessor Zellers had its liquidation sale, albeit more clean. The prices weren't as good as the other big box stores, and if there isn't enough stock, customers won't waste time going there.

I'm not shedding a tear at Target's departure, though I am heartbroken at the 17,600 people who've lost their jobs. In Canada, Target just wasn't our Shangri-La.

Bernice Pontanilla is a senior reporter for Metro Winnipeg.

We can't hack more hacker plots

Analysis. Universal has been mum on finding links between the Sony scandal and their high-tech thriller *Blackhat*

Sometimes clichés are clichés because they are true. No news is good news. A penny saved is a penny earned. Any publicity is good publicity.

No news is usually good news — unless you're the editor of a newspaper with blank pages to fill — and the math behind a penny saved is a penny earned isn't so hard to figure out, but recently the veracity of any publicity being good publicity has been put to the test.

The Sony hack and ensuing commotion that swirled around the Seth Rogen movie *The Interview* garnered headlines around the world, moving the story off the entertainment pages and into the news sections.

Stories, some true some not, and reviews, some good, some not, lit up social media.

The brouhaha surrounding the film lived at the very heart of popular culture for several weeks and even President Obama weighed in. But notwithstanding the endorsement of the most powerful film critic in the world, the movie is unlikely to actually make money.

The *Guardian* suggests *The Interview*'s total cost sits somewhere near \$80 million in production and marketing costs, and at the time of this writing has only earned \$36 million in digital rentals, purchases



Chris Hemsworth plays the world's hottest computer nerd in *Blackhat*. CONTRIBUTED

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE



Blackhat

Director. Michael Mann

Stars. Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis



Cyber crime is a hot-button topic but it doesn't make for very compelling cinema. *Blackhat*, director Michael Mann's new thriller, is hampered by a lack of drama. Chris Hemsworth plays a genius hacker sprung from prison to help the FBI and Chinese government track

down a cyber terrorist, but endless scenes of Hemsworth furiously typing on a laptop aren't the stuff thrillers are made of. Mann tries to spice things up with frenetic shots of a camera racing along wires and onto the information highway, but we've seen that in every hacker movie ever made so it comes across as a hack move in a movie without much to offer. He does stage the occasional heart-pounding action scene, but at 133 minutes the movie feels in need of a reboot.

and traditional theatrical receipts. The *Guardian* also says Sony could be facing "damage north of \$1 billion by some estimates" as a result of the hack.

So, if this was all a massive publicity stunt, as asserted by certain outspoken twitterati, it was a marketing failure of Titanic proportions and it could even hurt the box office of other films.

This weekend *Blackhat* stars Chris Hemsworth as the world's best-looking computer hacker, now serving a 15-year sentence for internet crime.

Authorities give him a get-out-of-jail-free card because he's the only computer whiz on earth geekified enough to stop a cyber terrorist from causing havoc.

You might think a hacking movie would be perfectly timed to take advantage of the hoopla surrounding the Sony situation and yet Universal made no attempt to connect the dots between real-life events and their movie.

Why? The *New York Times*, quoting unnamed sources, opined that "ticket buyers could be tired of hacking stories after weeks of media attention on Sony, and a film that is too topical might strike potential viewers as less entertaining."

Perhaps Universal's decision not to cash in on the publicity generated by real life events reveals there is no room for current events in a marketplace where two of the top 10 grossing movies of 2014 were based on toy lines (the rest were inspired by novels and comic books) or maybe that sound we hear is the swoosh of an old cliché swirling down the bowl.

2
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And the 2015 Academy Award nominees are...

It's the moment you — or at least professional "Oscar prognosticators" — have been waiting for. The Oscar nominations have been announced. The show airs Feb. 22, giving you less than a month to catch up with *Selma*, *Still Alice*, *Whiplash* and — who are we kidding? You're just going to see *Taken 3* again.

Among the notable snubs, incidentally: *Selma* for everything but Best Picture and Best Song, Ralph Fiennes for *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *The Lego Movie* and the Roger Ebert doc *Life Itself*. Then again, Marion Cotillard for *Two Days, One Night*!

Best Picture

- American Sniper
- Birdman
- Boyhood
- The Grand Budapest Hotel
- The Imitation Game
- Selma
- The Theory of Everything
- Whiplash

Best Director

- Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, *Birdman*
- Richard Linklater, *Boyhood*



Michael Keaton and Edward Norton in *Birdman*.

- Bennett Miller, *Foxcatcher*
- Wes Anderson, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*
- Morten Tyldem, *The Imitation Game*

Best Actor

- Steve Carell, *Foxcatcher*
- Bradley Cooper,

- American Sniper
- Benedict Cumberbatch, *The Imitation Game*
- Michael Keaton, *Birdman*
- Eddie Redmayne, *The Theory of Everything*

Best Actress

- Marion Cotillard, *Two*

- Days, One Night
- Felicity Jones, *The Theory of Everything*
- Julianne Moore, *Still Alice*
- Rosamund Pike, *Gone Girl*
- Reese Witherspoon, *Wild*

Best Supporting Actor

- Robert Duvall, *The Judge*
- Ethan Hawke, *Boyhood*
- Edward Norton, *Birdman*
- Mark Ruffalo, *Foxcatcher*
- J.K. Simmons, *Whiplash*

Best Supporting Actress

- Patricia Arquette, *Boyhood*
- Laura Dern, *Wild*
- Keira Knightley, *The Imitation Game*
- Emma Stone, *Birdman*
- Meryl Streep, *Into the Woods*

Best Adapted Screenplay

- American Sniper
- The Imitation Game
- Inherent Vice
- The Theory of Everything
- Whiplash



Foxcatcher received several nominations including best director. CONTRIBUTED



Reese Witherspoon in *Wild*. CONTRIBUTED

- Finding Vivian Maier
- Last Days in Vietnam
- Virunga
- Salt of the Earth

Best Animated Feature

- Big Hero 6
- The Boxtrolls
- How to Train Your Dragon 2
- Song of the Sea
- The Tale of the Princess Kaguya

Best Song

- The Lego Movie
- Selma
- Beyond the Lights
- Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me
- Begin Again

Best Cinematography

- Birdman
- The Grand Budapest Hotel
- Ida
- Mr. Turner
- Unbroken

Best Visual Effects

- Captain America
- Dawn of the Planet of the Apes
- Guardians of the Galaxy
- Interstellar
- X-Men: Days of Future Past

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Selma, Fiennes, Aniston among the Oscar snubs

Academy Awards.

Selma receives token nominations, while Ralph Fiennes and Jake Gyllenhaal join Aniston in getting cold shoulder

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

The big takeaway from the Oscar nominations isn't what was nominated but what wasn't.

Selma seemed like a no-brainer Academy Awards shoe-in: the first Hollywood film about Martin Luther King Jr. (played by David Oyelowo), directed not by a white man but by a black woman (Ava DuVernay), released into the world amidst race-related marches and protests not too dissimilar from the ones recreated in the film. To paraphrase (with censoring) William Hurt in *A History of Violence*, how do you screw that up?

And yet Selma wound up with a mere two nominations, one for best song (by John Legend and Common, that won a Golden Globe Sunday) and a token one for best picture. "Token best picture nomination" is a strange-sounding term, but that's how it goes when there are now

eight best picture nominees. Would Selma have even gotten that in the age of five nominees?

Also snubbed were DuVernay, whose win would have been the kind of story Oscar voters (and journos, and readers) love, and Oyelowo (ditto). But hey, AMAPS feted 12 Years a Slave last year, so maybe they think they can take a year off from caring about race?

Also ignored was Ralph Fiennes' alert, hilarious turn in Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, which nonetheless received nine nominations — the most of any single film. (In second came *Birdman*, with eight.) Jake Gyllenhaal was MIA for his electric turn as a sociopathic freelance journalist in *Nightcrawler*. And after a baldly transparent Oscar campaign for her tiny film *Cake*, Jennifer Aniston — who gained weight for the film — was not among the best actress nominees.

Upsets also happened in the best animated feature category — where one of the year's biggest and most inventive hits, *The Lego Movie*, was nowhere to be found — and best documentary feature. In the lat-

ter, the major upset was the omission of the Roger Ebert documentary *Life Itself*, to say nothing of films like Frederick Wiseman's *National Gallery*.

In brighter news, Marion Cotillard received a surprise nomination for the Belgian drama *Two Days, One Night* — a surprise only because it's a small film that definitely deserves any and all accolades.

The Polish film *Ida* joined the Russian tragedy *Leviathan*, both excellent, among nominees for best foreign language film. And despite being largely ignored by the Golden Globes, Clint Eastwood's non-jingoistic American *Sniper* walked off with six nominations, including picture and actor, for Bradley Cooper.

Perhaps the best news, after *The Grand Budapest*

Hotel's many noms, is *Boyhood* and its six nominations, including picture, director (for Richard Linklater), and supporting actress (Patricia Arquette) and actor (Ethan Hawke). Filmed piecemeal over 12 years, *Boyhood* won the Golden Globe for best picture (drama) and seems to be the frontrunner for the biggest trophy.

Also continuing their

awards season dominance were *Birdman*, *The Imitation Game* and *The Theory of Everything*, which cleaned up in the acting categories. And if anyone cares, *Interstellar* received two separate sound nominations, despite complaints that at times few could even make out what the hell the actors were saying.

The ceremony airs on Sunday, Feb. 22.



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Hemsworth whips into shape to play a brainy cyber hacker

Blackhat. Avengers' Thor had to slim down and improve his computer skills for his role as Hathaway in new Michael Mann cyber-security thriller

NED
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Metro World News in Hollywood

When you hire the guy who plays Thor in The Avengers to be the lead hacker in your cyber-security drama, you accept that he's going to be one of those rare hackers in reality, really good shape.

But Michael Mann wanted it to at least be plausible that Chris Hemsworth's superhuman physique could belong to an expert coder.

So we meet Hathaway — Hemsworth's character in Blackhat — behind bars, doing time for computer crimes, and a lot of push-ups.

"Once I'm done with Thor, I get rid of that bulk and size because that just sort of screams that character," Hemsworth explains. "Me and Michael talked about the time he'd spent in prison. You go in one person and come out another and, through those experiences he was going to physically be able to handle himself."

Being able to pull that off meant more than the usual post-Thor slim-down.

"I wanted to do more with my training than just running on the treadmill and trying to get rid of the weight," he says. "I've boxed



Chris Hemsworth plays a computer hacker in Blackhat. CONTRIBUTED

a lot in the past and done a lot of Muay Thai."

Of course, hitting the gym wasn't the only training Hemsworth had to undergo. He also had to pass muster behind a keyboard, something that was much more foreign to him.

So time spent with the cyber-security experts hired for the film — some of them former black hat hackers (the 'dark side' hackers) — proved invaluable.

"I was pretty limited in my digital, cyber involvement. It fascinated me," he says. "It became evident pretty quick that the majority of us knew nothing compared to what these guys knew."

"I remember asking one of the guys, 'Knowing what you know, do you look at the world differently? Do you feel you have an upper hand?'"

"He just started laugh-

Quoted

"That's the power now: the brains. They're the superheroes."

Actor Chris Hemsworth, on cyber experts

ing. He said, 'Man, people have no idea how exposed they are and vulnerable and what's possible.'

"And that's it, that's the power now: the brains. Not just in the criminal world but anywhere, they're the guys that are the superheroes, you know? That sort of highly intelligent, alien-type advancement that these guys seem to have within themselves was something that, every day, impressed me."

Also impressive was Mann's insistence on shooting on location, in places as authentic to the story as possible — which took them to

Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Hong Kong.

"You could shoot on the backlot in L.A. somewhere, in some parking lot and mock it up on a green screen, which I've had plenty of over the years. But you have a visceral, physical response to being in those places," he explains.

"The sights and sounds and smells just bring something out of you, and you're not having to fake or imagine that it's there. It becomes as much of an actor — something you bounce off — as the other people you're working with."

"That was such a treat, to work in those places, which are loud and noisy. A lot of the time, I remember the sound guy was worried about it, 'We can't shoot this, it's too much noise.' And Michael was just, 'No, no, keep going, this is great.'"

Avatar sequels. James Cameron delays the first of three followup films

Director James Cameron said Wednesday that writing three Avatar sequels is such a complex job he will delay the first film by a year, so it will now be released in late 2017.

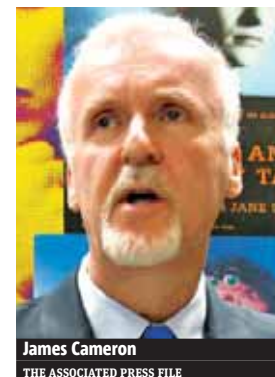
Cameron plans to film all of the highly anticipated sequels at one time and then release the three films over consecutive years.

The first had been due in late 2016, but he said the writing process proved to be "very involved" and that the initial target date was probably too ambitious.

"There's a layer of complexity in getting the story to work as a saga across three films that you don't get when you're making a stand-alone film," he said in Wellington, New Zealand, where he was helping promote the local film industry with other directors, including Peter Jackson.

Cameron said the goal is to have the three scripts completed this month. He's leading the writing team.

"We're writing three simultaneously. And we've done that so that everything tracks throughout the three films. We're not just going to do one and then make up another one and another one after that," he said. "And parallel with that, we're doing all the design. So we've de-



James Cameron
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

signed all the creatures and the environments."

Cameron said it's important that each film links forward to the next one in a satisfying way, but also comes to a resolution so that the audience isn't left hanging.

Released in 2009, Avatar is the highest-grossing film in history, with a box-office take of nearly \$2.8 billion. It was named best drama at the Golden Globes and won

Academy Awards for cinematography, visual effects and art direction.

Cameron shot the original movie in New Zealand and is planning to shoot the sequels there.

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Now in theatres

Comedy



Paddington

Director. Paul King

Stars. Nicole Kidman, Hugh Bonneville

From the beloved novels by Michael Bond and producer David Heyman (Harry Potter), Paddington tells the story of the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear (voiced by Firth) who travels to the city in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone, he begins to realize that city life is not all he had imagined — until he meets the kindly Brown family.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: Audience:
🍅 96% 🍿 87%

Comedy



The Wedding Ringer

Director. Jeremy Garelick

Stars. Josh Gad, Kevin Hart

Doug Harris (Josh Gad) is a lovable but socially awkward groom-to-be with a problem: He has no best man. With less than two weeks to go until he marries the girl of his dreams (Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting), Doug is referred to Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart), owner and CEO of Best Man, Inc., a company that provides flattering best men for socially challenged guys in need. What ensues is a hilarious wedding charade.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: Audience:
No reviews yet +93%

Drama



American Sniper

Director. Clint Eastwood

Stars. Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller

From director Clint Eastwood comes American Sniper, starring Bradley Cooper as Chris Kyle, the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. U.S. Navy SEAL sniper Kyle is sent to Iraq with only one mission: to protect his brothers-in-arms. His pinpoint accuracy saves countless lives on the battlefield. However, his reputation is also growing behind enemy lines, putting a price on his head.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: Audience:
🍅 74% +99%

Mystery/Drama



Inherent Vice

Director. Paul Thomas Anderson

Stars. Joaquin Phoenix

Inherent Vice is the seventh feature from Paul Thomas Anderson and the first-ever film adaption of a Thomas Pynchon novel. Private eye Doc Sportello's ex-old lady suddenly shows up with a story about her current billionaire boyfriend, and a plot by his wife and her boyfriend to kidnap that billionaire and throw him in a looney bin...well, easy for her to say.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: Audience:
🍅 73% +94%

Action/Adventure



Taken 3

Director. Olivier Megaton

Stars. Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace

Liam Neeson returns as ex-covert operative Bryan Mills, whose reconciliation with his ex-wife is tragically cut short when she is brutally murdered. Consumed with rage, and framed for the crime, he goes on the run to evade the relentless pursuit of the CIA, FBI and the police. For one last time, Mills must use his "particular set of skills," to track down the real killers.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: Audience:
🍅 31% +96%

Kids/Family



Into the Woods

Director. Sean Anders

Stars. Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden

Into the Woods is a modern twist on several of the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales, intertwining the plots of a few choice stories and exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. This humorous and heartfelt musical follows the classic tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: Audience:
🍅 71% +97%



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Kidman is relishing her rare comedic role

Paddington. Leather-clad, stiletto-wearing femme fatale character was written with the Aussie star in mind, director admits

Nicole Kidman knows most people don't consider her a comedic actress.

In her 31-year career, her roles have ranged from the morose to the deliciously sadistic. There are a few comedies, but she doesn't get many offers for that type of work.

She has won an Oscar and worked with Stanley Kubrick, Jane Campion, and Lars Von Trier. So how did she end up in a modest role as a delightfully villainous taxidermist in the children's film *Paddington*, with a relatively unknown director at the helm?

The answer is simple: She was asked.

"The desire to run the gamut and be diverse is something you're taught at drama school," said Kidman. "We're

trained in Shakespeare and then we're trained in Noel Coward and we're trained in mime classes. But a lot of times you're not given the opportunity to explore the things you've cultivated."

For director Paul King, it was a no-brainer. But it wasn't Kidman's 1996 romantic fantasy romp *Practical Magic* that he was thinking of. He'd seen Gus Van Sant's *To Die For* and knew Kidman had to be his Millicent. In the film, Millicent is a leather-clad, stiletto-wearing femme fatale who will stop at nothing to stuff the iconic talking bear from *Darkest Peru* and put him in a museum.

"He wrote it for me. I'm not sure if that's a flattering thing or not," Kidman laughed.

King, who had mostly worked in British television, knew it was a long shot.

"You should never write for an actor because they'll just say no. But I did have her in mind," he said.

The hard part was convincing everyone to actually put the script in front of Kidman. As King describes it, it was a process of being politely in-



Nicole Kidman plays Millicent in the new movie *Paddington*. CONTRIBUTED

sistent. Despite all the warnings that Kidman was "never" going to say yes, as soon as she heard the name *Paddington*, she jumped. Kidman had grown up reading Michael Bond's books in Australia and

it just struck a nerve.

Ultimately, she was the easiest person to cast. She signed on in just 12 hours.

"You don't often see the silly side of Nicole and she's such a funny, easygoing per-

son," said King, who really put the actress to the test. On Day 1, she was hanging upside down on wires and it got more challenging from there.

"I hope it gets a good response. It's smart," said Kid-

man of the movie, excitedly talking about how the physical comedy of the CG bear makes her two young daughters "squeal with laughter."

The past year was not exactly stellar for Kidman, with middling releases like the thriller *Before I Go To Sleep* and the historical drama *The Railway Man*, and the mysterious non-release of *Grace of Monaco* in the United States.

"It's sad," said Kidman of the *Grace Kelly* drama. "I put so much work into it. I would have loved for it to have been embraced."

But Kidman insists that she's "not the actor who makes strategic choices. If you look at my career, it's pretty random."

She is taking the reins where she can. She and Reese Witherspoon optioned the rights to the book *Big Little Lies*, which is in development as a limited series. She's also starring in and producing the adaptation of the quirky novel *The Family Fang*.

"My life is a roller coaster. My career is a roller coaster. Some people get smooth sailing. I never get that," she said.

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Miller's career is suddenly taking a turn for the serious

Movie roles. The U.K. actress used to be best known as tabloid fodder, but now she's landing some heavy-hitting parts

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

When she was younger, Sienna Miller was a paparazzi magnet. Photographers chased the English actress down streets, and the media obsessed over her relationships and dwelled on her beauty, not her acting.

Now, she seems to have taken drastic steps to shed all that. In 2012 she gave birth to her daughter, Marlowe, with her now-fiancé Tom Sturridge, and regularly describes their life as "boring."

But she's also back in high-profile movies, after years in smaller fare. She played Nancy Schultz, wife of Mark Ruffalo's doomed character, in *Foxcatcher*, and now plays Taya Kyle, wife of late Army sharpshooter Chris Kyle (played by Bradley Cooper) in Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper*. And there's plenty more where that came from.

In real life, Taya is very animated. She's definitely not just *The Wife*. She's a real firecracker. She's definitely not just a military wife. Clint, I think, is so respectful of women and historically has made movies with great roles for women in them. He'd never have let

her be one-dimensional. But it's not her story; it's Chris' story. I'd love to do a movie about Taya. She deserves it. You try to pack a lot into these small, infrequent moments that served the story. I do think her sense of humour, her feistiness

shines through.

Taya was very involved with the making of this film and has done press. Was she there as you were filming? She wasn't on set at all; she'd talk through all the takes. I say this because

I love her. She's such an oracle for everyone leading up to it, then was happy to just let us make the film. On *Foxcatcher*, Nancy Schultz was on-set. That was intimidating, because you feel very self-conscious having the person you're playing watch-



Sienna Miller as Taya Kyle in *American Sniper*. CONTRIBUTED

ing what you're doing.

How lightly do you tread when talking to someone who suffered this kind of tragedy?

You want to explore every aspect of their relationship while trying to be sensitive of the fact that they're still mourning. With Nancy, it happened a long time ago. She's sort of made peace with it, as awful as it was. Taya is still raw. The man who shot Chris is going on trial in February. She's been in this relentless cycle that's punishing and unforgiving.

New opportunities

- "I made a pact after I had a baby that I wanted to work with the best people. I don't care about the size of the roles; I just want to be in great films, just to learn from these people. Ten weeks after I gave birth to my daughter I was sent *Foxcatcher*. And once that happened, it opened up opportunities with other filmmakers, because they would tell other directors what I was like to work with. It was quite a good strategy, actually."

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Cooper did an excellent job of playing husband, widow says



Taya Kyle, the wife of a Navy SEAL whose story was portrayed in *American Sniper*. GETTY IMAGES

Real-life story. Taya Kyle was reluctant at first to see her spouse's tale on screen, but the actor won her over

The wife of a famed Navy SEAL sniper said she struggled with the idea of someone playing the movie role of her husband, who was killed two years ago near Fort Worth, Texas.

But Taya Kyle told The Dal-

las Morning News that actor Bradley Cooper did an excellent job accurately portraying her husband, Chris, and the difficult decisions he faced while fighting in Iraq and his struggles with determining his role when he returned from war.

In the film, a subtle facial tic that Cooper has as he looks through the scope of his weapon made Kyle nearly forget she was watching an actor on screen, she said. "It'd be almost like a tell in poker," she said. "In a stressful situation, Chris would do that."

The movie, *American Sniper*, is based on Chris Kyle's 2012 memoir that recounts his journey from being a rodeo cowboy to a trained sniper credited with 160 kills. He was honourably discharged in 2009 after 10 years of service, including four tours in Iraq.

In February 2013, Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield were killed at a shooting range. Ex-Marine Eddie Ray Routh is charged with capital murder, and authorities say he confessed to the killings to a Texas Ranger. He remains in jail in

lieu of \$3 million US bail. His trial is scheduled to start next month.

Cooper and the film's director, Clint Eastwood, visited Taya Kyle in Midlothian — about 25 miles south of Dallas — before filming. The trio sat around and talked, with Kyle showing them her husband's baseball caps, cowboy boots and the clothes still hanging in his closet. "It felt like I had a couple of friends over," she said. "They were very respectful, kind and warm."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 16 TO THURS., JAN. 22. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

City Centre 9 Cinemas
10200 102nd Ave.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-6:50-9:50 Mon 3:20-6:50-9:50 Tue 12:30-6:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 3:20-6:50-9:50
 Blackhat (14A) Fri-Sat 11:50-3:10-6:40-9:45 Mon 3:10-6:40-9:45 Tue 11:50-3:10-6:40-9:45 Wed-Thu 3:10-6:40-9:45
 The Boy Next Door (14A) Thu 10
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sat 4:15 Mon-Thu 4:15
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:55-8 Mon 8 Tue 12:55-8 Wed-Thu 8
 The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-4-7:20-10 Mon 4-7:20-10 Tue 12:50-4-7:20-10 Wed-Thu 4-7:20-10
 In Search of Beethoven (STC) Sun 11
 Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:40-7:10-10:05 Mon 3:40-7:10-10:05 Tue 12:20-3:40-7:10-10:05 Wed 3:40-10:05 Thu 3:40-7:10
 Selma (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-3:30-6:30-9:25 Mon 3:30-6:30-9:25 Tue 12:10-3:30-6:30-9:25 Wed-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:25
 Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sat 1-4:10-7:15-10:25 Mon 4:10-7:15-10:25 Tue 1-4:10-7:15-10:25 Wed-Thu 4:10-7:15-10:25
 The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sat 1-4:20-7:40-10:30 Mon 4:20-7:40-10:30 Tue 1-4:20-7:40-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:40-10:30
 Wild (14A) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:50-7:30-10:20 Mon 3:50-7:30-10:20 Tue 12:40-3:50-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 3:50-7:30-10:20

Clareview 10 Cinemas
4211 139th Ave.

Annie (G) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:15-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35
 Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:25-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
 Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:55-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
 Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:50-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40
 Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) Sat-Sun 3:20
 Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG)

Fri 6:35-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:10-6:35-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:35-9:10
 Foxcatcher (PG) Fri 6:30-9:25 Sat-Sun 12-3:10-6:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:25
 The Gambler (14A) Fri 6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:45
 Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 9:20 Interstellar (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:15-8 Mon-Thu 8
 Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 7:05 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 7:05
 Whiplash (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
 The Woman in Black: Angel of Death (14A) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:05-3-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15

Metro Cinema at the Garneau, 8712 109 St.

Aambala (STC) Sun 6:15
 American Beauty (18A) Wed 7
 The Battleship Potemkin (STC) Fri 7 Sat 4 Sun 2 Mon 9:15
 The Boxtrolls (PG) Sat 2
 Crimewave (STC) Tue 7
 The Guest (14A) Sun 9:30 Tue 9:30
 The Little Deputy (STC) Sat 7
 The Lost World (STC) Thu 7
 Maps to the Stars (18A) Fri 9 Sat 9:30 Sun 3:30 Mon 7 Thu 9:30
 Vampiros Lesbos (18A) Wed 9:30

Movies 12, 5074 130 Ave.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri 6:30-8:40 Sat-Sun 1-3-6:30-8:40 Mon 6:30-8:40 Tue 1-3-6:30-8:40 Wed-Thu 6:30-8:40
 The Book of Life (G) Fri 4:45 Sat-Sun 3:25 Mon 4:45 Tue 3:25 Wed-Thu 4:45
 The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri 6:55-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-5:40-7:50 Mon 6:55-9:15 Tue 1:15-5:40-7:50 Wed-Thu 6:55-9:15
 The Boxtrolls (PG) Fri 4:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 4:55-9:45 Mon 4:45-9:40 Tue 4:55-9:45 Wed-Thu 4:45-9:40
 The Boxtrolls 3D (PG) Fri 7:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-7:40 Mon 7:40 Tue 1:40-7:40 Wed-Thu 7:40
 Dracula Untold (14A) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-6:55-9:35 Mon 6:55-9:35 Tue 1:30-4:30-6:55-9:35 Wed-Thu 6:55-9:35
 Feng Shui 2 (14A) Fri 6:40-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:05-4-6:40-9:25 Mon 6:40-9:25 Tue 1:05-4-6:40-9:25 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:25
 Gone Girl (18A) Fri 5:15-8:35 Sat-



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Sun 1:45-5:15-8:35 Mon 5:15-8:35 Tue 1:45-5:15-8:35 Wed-Thu 5:15-8:35
 I (14A) Fri 4:50-8:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:50-8:30 Mon 4:50-8:30 Tue 1:10-4:50-8:30 Wed-Thu 4:50-8:30 Fri 5:05-8:45 Sat-Sun 1:25-5:05-8:45 Mon 5:05-8:45 Tue 1:25-5:05-8:45 Wed-Thu 5:05-8:45
 John Wick (14A) Fri 6:15-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:15-6:15-9:20 Mon 6:15-9:20 Tue 2:15-6:15-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:15-9:20
 The Judge (14A) Fri 5:50-8:50 Sat-Sun 2:30-5:50-8:50 Mon 5:50-8:50 Tue 2:30-5:50-8:50 Wed-Thu 5:50-8:50
 PK (PG) Fri 5:30-8:55 Sat-Sun 2:50-5:30-8:55 Mon 5:30-8:55 Tue 2:50-5:30-8:55 Wed-Thu 5:30-8:55
 Tevar (14A) Fri 5:45-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-5:45-9:10 Mon 5:45-9:10 Tue 2:10-5:45-9:10 Wed-Thu 5:45-9:10

North Edmonton Cinemas
14231 137th Ave.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sun 9:10 Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:15
 Annie (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:30 Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:25 No Passes Sat 12:15-4:10-7:20-10:25 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:25 No Passes
 Wed 4:10-7:20-10:25 No Passes Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
 The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Thu 8:40
 City Lights (STC) Mon 7
 Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 8:50 Mon 9:15 Tue-Wed 8:50
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five

Armies (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-6:50-10:05
 Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 10:45 Mon-Thu 9:20
 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Wed 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:35 Thu 1:50-4:40-10:35
 The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Wed 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:20 Thu 1:40-4:15-9:45 Thu 7:30
 Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:55
 The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 10:55
 Mortdecai (STC) Thu 8:50
 Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40 Sat 11:30-12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40 Sun-Wed 12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40 Thu 12:50-3:20-6:10
 Paddington (G) Fri 12-1:30-4:15-6:45-9:20 Sat 11:20-12-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:20 Sun 12-1:30-4:15-6:45-9:20
 Mon-Thu 12-1:30-4:15-6:45-9:10
 Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
 Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 11-1:15 Sun-Thu 1:15
 Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:45-6:20 Mon 3:45 Tue-Thu 3:45-6:20
 Selma (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:10 Wed 4:20-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
 Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40
 Unbroken (PG) Fri 12:15-3:30-6:40-

9:50 Sat 3:30-6:40-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:40-9:50
 The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Thu 2:20-5-7:50-10:30 Sat 11:10

Princess I & II 10337 Whyte Ave.

Big Eyes (PG) Fri-Thu 6:50
 Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 9:10 Sat-Sun 1-9:10 Mon-Thu 9:10
 Inherent Vice (18A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
 The Theory of Everything (G) Sat-Sun 3:30

Scotiabank Theatre West Mall
8882 170th St.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:35
 Annie (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:50
 Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Tue 1:50 Wed-Thu 1:35
 Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25 No Passes Wed 4:20-7:25-10:25 No Passes Thu 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 Mon-Thu 2-5:15-8:30
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:55-4-7:15-10:20
 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40 Sat 4:40-7:40-10:40 Sun 1:40-4:40-

7:40-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:15
 The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7-9:50
 Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:10-10:10
 The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 10:55
 National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
 Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:30
 Paddington (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:50-7:35-10
 Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:15-5:10-7:50-10:30
 Unbroken (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35
 The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:25-5-7:35-10:15 Mon-Tue 2:25-5-7:45-10:15 Wed 5-7:45-10:15 Thu 2:25-5-7:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
 The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (14A) Fri-Sun 3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45 Mon-Tue 4:45-7:40-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:15-10:30

South Edmonton Common, 1525 99th St.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:05-7-9:55
 Annie (G) Fri-Sat 1:40 Sun 1:45 Mon 1:20 Tue-Thu 1:50
 Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:50 Sat 11-1:50 Sun 1:15 Mon-Tue 1:40 Wed 1:35 Thu 1:40
 Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sat 5-7:50 Sun-Wed 4:25-7:05 Thu 4:25
 Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri-Sat 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-10 No Passes Mon-Wed 1-4-7-10 No Passes Thu 4-7-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
 The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Thu 9:40
 City Lights (STC) Mon 7
 Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Sun 12:55
 The Gambler (14A) Fri-Sun 4:45-7:25-10:05 Mon 4:05-10:05 Tue 4:45-7:25-10:05 Wed 4:40-10:10 Thu 4:45-7:25-10:05
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 3:35 Mon-Thu 5:40
 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five

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Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sat 10:35 Sun-Wed 9:45
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 3:45-6:50-9:45 Sun 3:10-6:15-9:05 Mon-Wed 3:45-6:40-9:30 Thu 3:45-6:40
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:25 Sun 12:15-3:05-6:30-9:15 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:50 Wed 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:50 Thu 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:50
Inherent Vice (18A) Fri-Sat 12:32-5:40-9:55 Sun 12:31-5:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:50-9:05
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sat 2:05-5:50-9:35 Sun 2:05-5:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:55-5:35-9:15
Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Sat 12:20-4-7-9:50 Sun 12:35-3:25-6:20-9:10 Mon-Wed 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:35 Thu 3:55-6:45-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 10:55
Mortdecai (STC) Thu 9:30
National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 1:25-4:05-6:35-9:30 Sat 1:15-4:05-6:35-9:30 Sun 12:55-3:30-6-9 Mon-Wed 1:25-3:50-6:20-9 Thu 1:05-3:50
Paddington (G) Fri 12:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sat 11:05-11:30-11:45-1:25-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sun 12:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Mon-Tue 2:10-4:35-6:55-9:20 Wed 1:15-4:20-6:55-9:20 Thu 2:10-4:35-6:55-9:20
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 12:45 Mon-Thu 1:30
Selma (PG) Fri 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:40-7:20-10:20 Sun 12:50-4-7:15-10:10 Mon-Tue 1:15-4:20-7:15-10:10 Wed 1:05-4-7:15-9:40 Thu 1:15-4:20-7:15-10:10
Strange Magic (STC) Thu 7:05-9:45
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Sun-Tue 1:40-4:15-6:50-9:25 Wed 1:35-4:15-6:50-9:25 Thu 1:20-4:15-6:50-9:25
Unbroken (PG) Fri 12:35-3:55-7:05-10:15 Sat 3:55-7:05-10:15 Sun 3-6:10-9:20 Mon 2:35-6:40-9:40 Tue 1:20-4:40-7:50 Wed 1:20-4:45-7:50 Thu 2:35-6:15
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10

Mon-Tue 2:15-5-7:40-10:10 Wed 2:15-5-7:40-10:05 Thu 2:15-5-7:40-10:10

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Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark: The IMAX Experience (14A) Sat 4:30
Interstellar: The IMAX Experience in 70mm Film (PG) Fri-Sat 9 Sun 5:45
Island of Lemurs: Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 5:30
Journey to the South Pacific: The IMAX Experience (G) Fri 1-3:20-7 Sat 11-12-1-3:20-7 Sun 11-1-3:20 Mon 1-3:20 Tue 3:20 Wed-Thu 1-3:20
Pandas: The Journey Home 3D (G) Fri 2-4:30 Sat 2 Sun 12-2-4:30 Mon 2-4:30 Tue 2 Wed-Thu 2-4:30
Rocky Mountain Express (G) Tue 1

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American Sniper (14A) Fri 3:55-7-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:45
Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri 3:30-6:40-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:50-10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Sat-Sun 3:15
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 6:30-9:55 Sat-Sun 12-6:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:50
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 4:40-7:30-10:20 Sat 11:10-1:55-4:40-7:30-10:20 Sun 1:55-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:10
Into the Woods (STC) Fri 4:15-7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 7-10:05
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 5:05-7:40-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:05
Paddington (G) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:20 Sat 11:20-1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20 Sun 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 4:30-7:25-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:55
Unbroken (PG) Fri 3:25-6:45-10 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:25-6:45-10 Mon-

Thu 6:45-10
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 4:35-7:10-9:45 Sat 11:25-2-4:35-7:10-9:45 Sun 2-4:35-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:10

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American Sniper (14A) Fri 6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:25-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:40
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35
Paddington (G) Fri 6:45-9 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-6:45-9 Mon-Thu 6:45-9
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 7:05-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:35-7:05-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:30

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American Sniper (14A) Fri 4-7:10-10:20 Sat 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:45 Sun 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:35-9:45 Fri 3:45-7:10-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-10
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Sun 12:55
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 5-8:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-5-8:15 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:50
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 3:55-7:20-10:15 Sat-Sun 3:10-6:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:05
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 4:05-6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:40 Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:15 Sun 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 8
Into the Woods (STC) Fri 3:40-6:30-9:30 Sat 12:25-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sun 3:45-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:05-10
Paddington (G) Fri 4:15-6:40-9:10 Sat 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:10
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Sat-Sun 12:50
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:10 Sat 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15 Sun 1-3:30-6:15-9 Mon-Thu 7-9:50 Fri 4:50-7:45-10:50 Sat 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:50 Sun 1:40-4:40-8 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:15
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 4:45-7:40-10:30 Sat 12:10-2:40-5:20-7:55-10:30 Sun 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON
THE WORLD OF
CELEBRITIES

Hooray, the Oscar nominations are a thing and we can move on with Awards Season! But don't forget, we're also in the glut of winter releases, when studios notoriously dump their shaggiest of dogs, and sometimes that can lead to some awkward cross-promotions for nominated actors.

The most famous case, the horribly received Norbit, came out in early February and is believed to have cost Eddie Murphy an Oscar for Dreamgirls in 2007. So who's running that risk this year? Why, only the odds-on-favourites in the two biggest races. First up, Julianne Moore pretty much has the race tied up for her stellar work in Still Alice, but ads have already started hitting TV for Seventh Son, the not-great-looking fantasy action film featuring Moore as some sort of evil witch. Or at least inspiration for future drag queens. It also co-stars previous



Julianne Moore ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Oscar winner Jeff Bridges, who just looks embarrassed to be there. And then there's Best Actor nominee Eddie Redmayne, who also plays a campy villain in an early February release, this time in the Wachowskis' Jupiter Ascending. The jury is still out on the sci-fi epic, which will likely either be spectacular or a mess. But Redmayne should come out pretty unscathed,

since most of the Jupiter attention seems to be going to Channing Tatum — the only main Foxcatcher actor to not get nominated.

One thing is for sure. Reps for Whiplash star (and Best Supporting Actor favourite) J.K. Simmons are likely doing everything they can to get his goofy Farmers Insurance ads off TV screens before Oscar voting gets too ramped up.

Kirstie's all ready for a
Bieber booty call

So, Kirstie Alley wants to make out with Justin Bieber. And I say we let her. Who are we to stand in the way of true happiness? Alley revealed her potentially scandalous desire on The Rachael Ray Show during a round of the clumsily renamed game Marry, Make Out or Move On. First of all, come on, Ms. Ray. The game is called F—, Marry, Kill. It loses all of its potency and fun when you over-sanitize it like that. Even the cleaner version the kids on YouTube play would be acceptable: Kiss, Marry, Kill. But yours? No.

Now then, back to Alley. During the game, she's presented with the choice of Bieber, Harry Styles or Nick Jonas. "We've all seen

Justin Bieber's Calvin Klein (ads). He's so handsome. What a handsome man. I'm just all over Justin Bieber," Alley says. "I want to make out with him." She then says she'd marry Styles to "go on tour with him because I want to seem younger."

And as for Jonas? "I'm not so familiar with Mr. Jonas, but he's very cute," she says. "He's just not a booty call like Bieber." OK, now I sort of understand the re-naming of the game, because even if they went with the sanitized YouTube version, the headline today would be "Kirstie Alley wants to kill Nick Jonas."

Kirstie Alley



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LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO IN SWAN LAKE | PHOTO: SASCHA VOUGHI

Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Wine gives beef tender loving touch



This recipe serves six. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Dinner. Red Wine Braised Beef is a great meal when you have a bit more time to spare



RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

When your cheeks are rosy from a day of being outside, nothing hits the spot like a comfort food classic. Plan ahead and let a blade roast slow-cook while you warm up in front of the fireplace.

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C).

2. In a large ovenproof skillet, brown the meat in half the oil. Season with salt and pepper on both sides. Set the meat on a plate. In the same skillet, soften the shallots with the spices in the remaining oil (2 tbsp/30 ml). Sprinkle with the flour and mix well. Deglaze with the wine. Bring to a boil, whisking constantly.

3. Return the meat to the skillet. Add half the beef broth and the ketchup. Bring to a boil. Cover and roast in the oven for 3 hours. Turn the meat over three or four times during cooking and baste with the remaining beef broth.

4. Add the carrots and pancetta around the roast. Continue cooking, always covered, for about 1 hour or until the meat is fork tender and the vegetables are cooked.

5. To give a nice crust to braised meat, move the rack to the highest position of the oven. Set the oven to broil. Drain the meat and place on a baking sheet. Keep the sauce and toppings warm. Brush top of the roast with honey. Broil for about 3 minutes or until the surface starts to brown.

6. Serve meat with toppings and drizzle with sauce. Serve with barley. FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Ingredients

- 1 boneless beef blade roast, about 3 lb (1.5 kg) and about 3 inches (7.5 cm) thick
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 3 shallots, chopped
- 2 tsp crushed juniper berries
- 1/2 tsp cracked black pepper
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 cups (500 ml) red wine
- 2 cups (500 ml) beef broth, warm
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) ketchup
- 4 large carrots, diced
- 1/4 lb (115 g) pancetta, diced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey

Liquid Assets

Enjoy a glass as you cook



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

I've written it before, and I'll write it again: I'd never cook with a wine I wouldn't drink.

Not that I'd plunk down a week's pay on some vino to simply pour into a pan.

Wine is a secondary flavour component in any main course and not the focal point.

As a basic rule you should always pick a wine that matches your budget and key ingredient.

Today's recipe from Chef Ricardo is a great example of how well liquids and solids can work together in a dish. His braised beef is a hearty entrée that deserves a red wine that's in line with the mouth-filling texture of the meat.

Think a red Bordeaux from France, a spicy Australian Shiraz, a peppery Argentinean Malbec or a rich, full-bodied Chilean Cabernet like the 2013 Errazuriz Estate Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (\$12.99 - \$14.99).

One last tip: Never keep a half-drunk bottle of red in your pantry to "cook with." Once it's opened it will only stay consumable for a few days. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**



3

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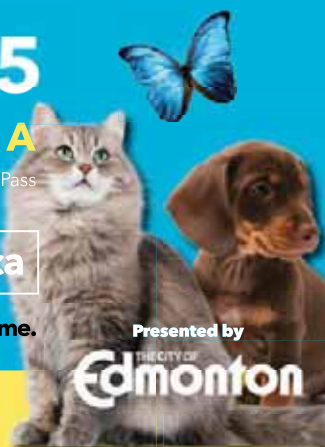
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Defensive leaders with differing styles

NFC title game.

Seahawks' Wagner, Packers' Matthews go about being effective in their own ways

If it seems as if Clay Matthews is omnipresent off the field, well, yeah. No NFL linebacker has a higher profile than the Green Bay star, thanks to his commercials and his flashy persona.

If you barely know anything about Bobby Wagner, that's understandable, too. He's not into snazzy, leaving that to his Legion of Boom teammates in Seattle.

On Sunday in the NFC championship game, their performances will go a long way toward determining which team goes to the Super Bowl. And while Matthews may add a touch of the ostentatious, Wagner will do things far more quietly, yet just as fiercely.

Indeed, he might be the least-ballyhooed member of this season's All-Pro team.

"With Wags, just killer instinct," fellow All-Pro Earl Thomas said Thursday. "Some guys just have that nasty streak to him, and I want another guy beside me with killer instincts. He has that, Sherm has that, Kam has that, and that fired-up passion is contagious."

Essential, too, for the most feared defence in the league, one that helped the Seahawks win it all last year and has them on the verge of a repeat title — something not accomplished by anyone in a decade.



Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner celebrates sacking 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick on Dec. 14 in Seattle.
OTTO GREULLE JR./GETTY IMAGES

Quoted



"We're winning games and I'm making plays, so as long as that's happening, we're doing something right."

Packers linebacker Clay Matthews

But, consistent with his nature, Wagner doesn't make a big deal of it all.

"My job is to be in the middle of everything," said the 2012 second-round draft pick from Utah State. "Also, the signal caller, making sure everybody's in the right spot, making adjustments when I need

to, being as vocal as I possibly can on the field."

The Packers will show up at CenturyLink Field with a good but not great defence. Indeed, its only consistent playmaker is Matthews, who made his fifth Pro Bowl in six seasons by being a factor at outside and inside linebacker.

Matthews has displayed throughout his six pro seasons he is much more than a media star capable of ripping on himself in TV ads. He's capable of ripping apart offensive schemes, and his value in Green Bay has been increased with how co-ordinator Dom Capers used him in 2014.

When Capers began moving Matthews around in the Packers' alignments, it caused opponents to guess — something no offence or quarterback is comfortable with. Matthews had 6-1/2 sacks in his final four games and 11 for the season. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

AFC title game

Colts' Vinatieri on cusp of another kick at glory

Adam Vinatieri savoured all of those New England celebrations.

He made the two big field goals in the "Tuck Rule" playoff game and, of course, the two game-winning Super Bowl kicks.

On Sunday, the long-time Patriots kicker will return to his former home, possibly for the final time.

"It's amazing," the 42-year-old Colts kicker said when asked about his career this week. "I could never have been more lucky. If I wrote it as a book, people would never believe it."

Believe it.

The NFL's oldest player has four Super Bowl rings, is a perfect 6-0 on championship weekend as he makes his seventh appearance Sunday at New England.

A win over the Patriots would send Vinatieri to another Super Bowl and give him a chance to tie Charles Haley for the most individual rings (five).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri converts a field goal against the Broncos on Sunday in Denver.
EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

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Oilers undone by Palat in Tampa Bay

NHL. Lightning forward adds two more goals to surprise season totals in win over Edmonton

Ondrej Palat scored a pair of third-period goals, and the Eastern Conference-leading Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Edmonton Oilers 3-2 on Thursday night.

Steven Stamkos also scored in his fourth straight game for the Lightning, which overtook the idle New York Islanders atop the East.

Tampa Bay finished a run of 21 games that included a 6-0-1 record against Edmonton, Buffalo and Carolina, the NHL's worst three teams. The Lightning went 5-8-1 against other opponents during that stretch.

Edmonton, which has lost 14 consecutive road games, got two goals from Benoit Pouliot.



Oilers left-winger Matt Fraser tries to slip a first-period redirect past Lightning goalie Ben Bishop on Thursday in Tampa Bay. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He has scored the last five Oilers goals.

After Palat scored from in-close at 1:33 of the third, he made it 3-2 from the slot with 8:01 to play. It was the first time this season Tampa Bay

has won when trailing after two periods (1-13-1).

Edmonton took a 2-1 lead on Pouliot's second of the game, coming on a goal-mouth scramble during a power play with 57.3 seconds left in the

On Thursday

3

Oilers

2

Lightning

second period. The left-wing has a four-game goal streak.

Pouliot put the Oilers ahead 1-0 with a short-handed rebound goal at 13:52 of the first.

Stamkos tied it 7:10 into the second on his 26th goal from the right circle. Matt Carle set it up right after serving a penalty.

During a one-minute stretch late in the second, Edmonton's Nail Yakupov hit the post and Stamkos missed the net with an in-close shot and had another scoring chance blocked by defenceman Anton Lander. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Canadiens succumb to Sens

Jean-Gabriel Pageau's first goal of the season proved to be the game winner Thursday night as the Ottawa Senators defeated the Montreal Canadiens 4-1.

Mika Zibanejad, Erik Karlsson and Erik Condra also scored for the Senators (18-17-8). Craig Anderson stopped 25 shots in his 399th game and has allowed two goals or less in eight of his last 10 starts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Rangers fall 3-0, this time to Bruins

Tuukka Rask stopped 30 shots for his second shut-out. Patrice Bergeron scored a first-period goal, and the Boston Bruins won their fifth straight by beating the New York Rangers 3-0 on Thursday night.

The Rangers have lost 3-0 in their last two after winning five straight and 13 of 14. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Jays strike deal with lefty Cecil

The Blue Jays avoided arbitration with Brett Cecil on Thursday, signing the reliever to a one-year deal worth \$2.475 million US.

Cecil was 2-3 last season with five saves and a 2.70 earned-run average in 66 appearances. The 28-year-old has spent his entire major-league career with the Blue Jays after joining the team in 2009. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Speed it up

MLB toys with pitch-clock idea

A pitch clock will be used this season during minor-league games at Triple-A and Double-A but it has been ruled out for the major leagues this year.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said Thursday the decision to use the pitch clock in the minors followed a successful experiment in the Arizona Fall League.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Metro News app for today's
crossword and Sudoku answers.
It's OK. No one's watching.



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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Good fortune is heading your way. You may find that hard to believe but if you adopt a more positive outlook today and over the weekend it will help you to recognize how lucky you are.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

No matter what sad tales you hear from people today you will be on a high. As far as you are concerned the world is, was and always will be wonderful.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

If you force yourself to be enthusiastic about a task you don't care for today you may be surprised to find that you actually quite enjoy it.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

A few days from now you will look back and wonder why and how you allowed yourself to get so worked up about a relationship matter. Life always moves on and so should you.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

If someone tries to belittle your efforts over the next 24 hours it can only be because they are jealous of your ability to get things done and the way (almost) everyone loves you.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

There is something you have wanted to do for many years but for one reason or another never got around to. Now the universe is making it easy for you to get started on it.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You will be less inclined to worry about your cashflow today and that's good. The only danger is you could start spending money like it grows on trees. It doesn't.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Your luck will turn for the better very soon but today you must be cautious, especially when travelling and dealing with people whose motives you know little about.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

The next few days will be lucky for you and what you gain you will deserve. Not everyone will agree with it but not everyone is aware how hard you worked to get to your current position.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

If you gamble on something and win today you would be wise not to go any further. The planets warn that once you are ahead the only way you will stay ahead is by calling it a day.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Don't feel bad about it if you gain from someone else's loss over the next 24 hours. According to the planets it is your turn to get lucky, so take advantage of the situation.

♓ Pisces

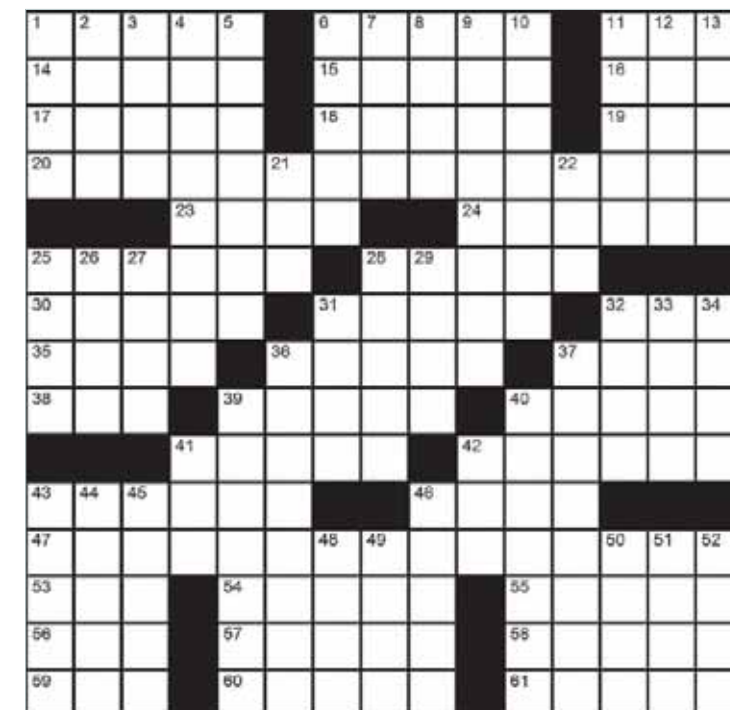
Feb. 20 - March 20

If someone tries to do you a favour don't automatically assume that it's some kind of scam. Genuine people do exist.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Three-player card game
6. Sports buff's interests
11. US lawyers' org.
14. Heat-resistant glassware
15. Java hue
16. "Follow You Down" by ___ Blossoms
17. Spew fire
18. Mr. Flynn
19. Contribute
20. Sniffle, achoo...
21. Cold treatment alternatives: 2 wds.
23. Twisted
24. Immediately!
25. Misgivings
28. Blue Rodeo's "___ Hit Me Yet"
30. Loosen
31. Stevie Wonder's "Shoo-___-Be-Doo-Da-Day"
32. iPhone download
35. Medical suffix
36. Convict
37. "Ripley's Believe ___ Not!": 2 wds.
38. The Anteater's mealtime noise in the B.C. comic strip
39. Songstress Ms. Scott's
40. Rusty hue
41. ___ letter (Used Canada Post)
42. Family emblems
43. Becky Black and Maya Miller = Vancouver rock duo



The ___.

46. Scottish rolls
47. Canadian artist (b.1905 - d.1989) ...his paintings depict the landscapes of Alberta and Saskatchewan: 2 wds.
53. "Don't Bring Me Down" gr.
54. Herman's Hermits singer Peter

55. "___ Was a Lady" (1945)

56. Has the ability
57. The Jackson 5's "___ There"
58. Serviceable
59. Middle
60. Guitarist Duane, and surnamesakes
61. Dished, ___ out

Down

1. Unlock
2. "___ Breckinridge" (1970)
3. Men's cologne brand
4. CBC's "___ of Doyle"
5. Drastic
6. Extract metal from ore
7. Pressure unit
8. Land unit

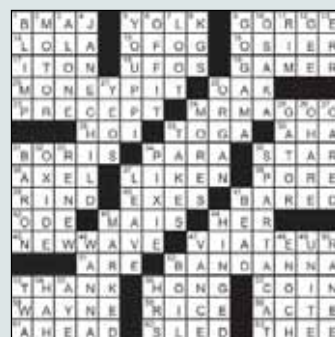
9. 4th Prime Minister of Canada, from 1892 to 1894: Sir John ___

10. Hamilton-based cheese company since 1962
11. Anew
12. Posh bathroom feature
13. Hence...: 2 wds.
21. Years: French

22. Actress, ___-Marie Jones

25. Test
26. Do ___ others...
27. Fighting: 2 wds.
28. No Doubt's "___ Good"
29. Big fusses
31. Fashion accessory
32. Sporty sorts, shortly
33. Harbour site
34. CEO
36. Have a successful day as a prospector during the Klondike: 2 wds.
37. Emulate Kurt Browning: 2 wds.
39. "I Dream of ___"
40. The ___ (Historic concert hall in Vancouver)
41. Do moguls
42. Meower
43. Portion
44. Relieve
45. Baa Baa! Duplicate, like Dolly
46. Namesakes of Marcia's "Desperate Housewives" role
48. Hilly countryside area
49. Dionne Warwick's "Walk ___"
50. Modify
51. Annoy
52. Singer/songwriter Lou

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at
metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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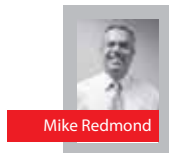
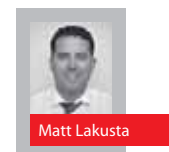
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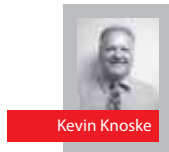
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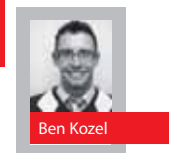
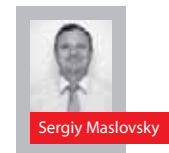
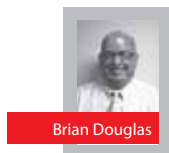
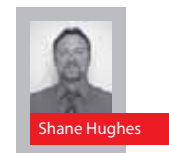
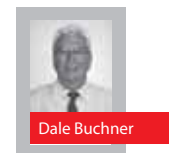
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